



# DoD's ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES WITH AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

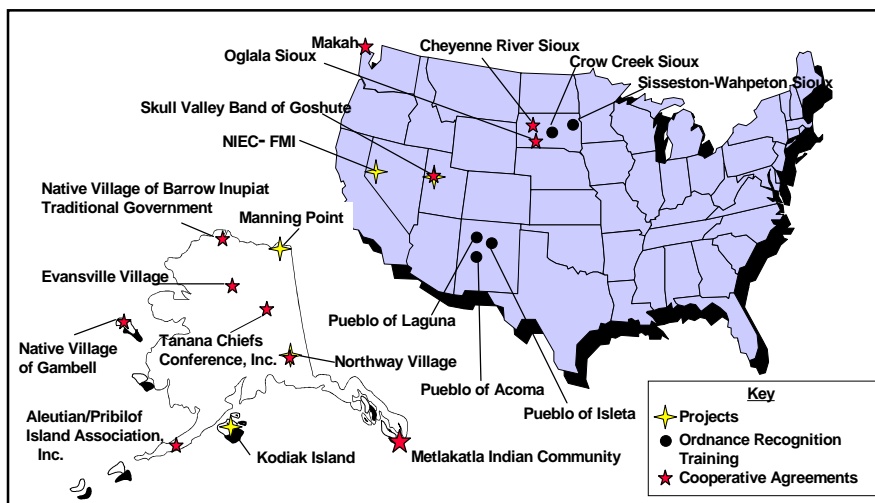
April 2000

## DoD and Native Americans Address Past Environmental Impacts

**D**oD, in cooperation with tribes, and with special funding provided by Congress, is conducting site assessments on Indian lands to address potential environmental impacts that may have resulted from past DoD activities. DoD anticipates that ongoing investigations and additional tribal reports will portray a clearer picture of the nature and extent of reported impacts.

DoD works in partnership with tribes on a government-to-government basis to clean-up contamination of tribal lands caused by past DoD activities. These partnerships provide tribes with a degree of control and responsibility over their mitigation efforts, with technical assistance from DoD as the tribes require. The map shows some of the tribes and consortia DoD has worked with previously.

For example, DoD and Evansville Village in Alaska signed a cooperative agreement to remove and dispose of approxi-



mately 800 55-gallon drums in the area around the Village. DoD consulted with the Village on a government-to-government basis to identify the problem and to determine how the tribe should participate in cleanup. Currently, the tribe is leading the cleanup effort with DoD's oversight. (Contacts: Mr. Len Richeson, ODUSD(ES), 703-604-0518; or Mr. John Stacy, ODUSD(ES), 703-604-1747.) ❖



## DoD Conducts Technology Demonstration Projects on Tribal Lands

**D**oD works with tribal governments to demonstrate and validate promising, innovative technologies that target environmental problems caused by DoD's past activities on Indian lands. These projects accelerate the demonstration, acceptance, and implementation of innovative cleanup technologies, as well as transferring information to and involving Indian communities. (Contact: Dr. Jeff Marqusee, Technical Director SERDP, and ESTCP Director, 703-696-2120.) ❖

*As part of a multi-sensor towed array detection system technology demonstration, a DoD contractor and Morris Killsback of the Oglala Sioux Tribe identify possible unexploded ordnance locations at the Badlands Bombing Range, South Dakota.*

## Native Americans Take Advantage of Business Opportunities

**D**oD is providing technical and business development assistance to Native Americans to equip them with the skills they need to achieve better economic, educational, and business opportunities.

DoD's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization is encouraging prime contractors to initiate mentor-protégé relationships with Indian organizations and Indian-owned economic enterprises. The Mentor-Protégé Program encourages DoD prime contractors to assist in developing the technical and business capabilities of American Indian and Alaska Native corporations. The mentor business implements a development assistance plan designed to better prepare its protégé organization to compete successfully for future DoD contracts. (Contact: Mentor-Protégé Program Hotline, 800-553-1858.)

DoD offers prime contractors, including small businesses, an incentive for using Native American-owned subcontractors or organizations. Under the "5% Incentive" the DoD contractor who sub-contracts with a Native American-owned entity receives a bonus based on 5% of the sub-contract value. DoD Appropriations Act for FY 2000 continues the \$8 million earmark for this program, in addition to other Native American capacity building efforts. (Contact: Hotline, 800-553-1858.)

### DoD Training Courses Open Doors

DoD sponsors environmental training and education opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives. These courses provide tribal members with the technical expertise needed to help restore land that was formerly used for DoD activities.

On April 9, 1999, 16 Oglala Sioux tribal members from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and 6 Aleut tribal members from



*In April 1999, 22 students completed the first DoD UXO Technician 1 training course. The skills learned in this course will be applied to cleanup work on tribal lands, as well as other cleanup projects.*

Alaska completed the first DoD unexploded ordnance (UXO) Technician 1 training course. Graduates gained the knowledge and skills necessary to safely locate and identify UXO. A second UXO training course was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 16-19, 1999. Sixteen Native Americans from the Acoma, Walker-River Paiute, Cheyenne River Sioux, and the Crow Creek Sioux tribes took part in the training.

The training classes not only prepare tribal members to participate in the cleanup on their own lands, it gives them valuable skills to find work on other types of cleanup projects. Currently, several members of the Badlands Bombing Range (BBR) Project Office staff, who were among those trained to identify UXO in the first course, are working for an environmental contractor out of Denver, Colorado — providing these workers with valuable on-the-job experience. The hands-on experience these staff are gaining will be applied at the BBR project. ❖

## Civil-Military Program Benefits Indian Tribes

**T**he tribes and the Services are working together to benefit from the Civil-Military Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. IRT provides engineering, medical, and dental services to local communities, including some Indian reservations, while military personnel gain "hands-on" training. For example, in Summer 2000, six twelve-person teams from the 287<sup>th</sup> and 455<sup>th</sup> Medical companies (DS) of the U.S. Army Reserve will provide dental services

to the Indians living on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, a medically underserved population with an extremely high unemployment rate. Additionally, as a part of the broader Operation Walking Shield Community Development Program, the 425th Engineer Detachment will drill and develop up to five water wells on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Summer 2000. (Contact: Mr. Ernie Gonzales, OSD/RA, 703-693-8630)